Entering office amid an economic crisis, President Obama has consistently fought for the middle class, protecting children, and education. Here is just some of what has been achieved in Alaska.

**Strengthening the middle class**

- The Social Security payroll tax cut instituted by President Obama is a first step to leveling the playing field — **$1,000 more in take-home pay** for a middle class family earning $50,000 a year. (Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury)

- Over the last two decades, on average the income of the richest 20% of families in Alaska rose by nearly $20,000 while the income of the poorest 20% of families in Alaska rose by about $3,200 — **six times more**. For details, see [http://bit.ly/jyj6H](http://bit.ly/jyj6H). (Source: *Pulling Apart: A State by State Analysis of Income Trends*, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute, 2008)

**Making college affordable**

- President Obama has preserved **Pell grants** for nearly 10,000 students in Alaska. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)

- Last year alone, the American Opportunity Tax Credit introduced by President Obama helped make **college tuition** affordable for 20,000 families in Alaska. (Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis)
Supporting educators, modernizing schools
- As a result of President Obama’s support for the Education Jobs Fund, signed into law in August 2010, Alaska received $24 million that helped keep teachers in the classroom, limit increases in class size, and contain layoffs of counselors, classroom aides, and other education support professionals. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)
- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law by President Obama in February 2009, funded nearly 300 education jobs in Alaska. (Source: U.S. Department of Education)
- President Obama’s American Jobs Act, which the Republican Congress continues to block, would provide $71 million for education jobs, $62 million to modernize schools, and $3 million for community colleges in Alaska. (Source: A State by State Guide to the American Jobs Act, whitehouse.gov)

Improving health care
- In 2011, Alaska received $233,000 for school-based health centers that provide screenings, conduct health promotion and disease prevention activities, and enable children with acute or chronic illnesses to attend school. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration)
- The Affordable Care Act has brought peace of mind to 387,000 people in Alaska — they no longer have to worry about lifetime limits. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Health Care Law & You, healthcare.gov)
- In 2011, nearly 4,000 young adults in Alaska could remain on their parents’ health plans until age 26 — and that number will grow in 2012. Before the Affordable Care Act, many college graduates and other young adults had no insurance. (Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Health Care Law & You, healthcare.gov)